AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-46 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 8, 15, 31-32, and 39-40 have been amended. The Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing signals in a communication system, the method comprising:

determining a signal quality metric for a plurality of signal paths, wherein one or more of said plurality of signal paths is selected based on stored information related to preceding frames, the stored information received via each of the plurality of signal paths;

assigning a threshold signal quality metric for the plurality of signal paths; and

~~ignoring~~discarding a signal path from the plurality of signal paths, if the determined signal quality metric for the signal path does not satisfy the threshold signal quality metric.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising assigning a different threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising assigning a fixed threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising dynamically changing the threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the signal quality metric comprises at least one of a power level characteristic, a packet error rate characteristic, a bit error rate characteristic, a propagation channel characteristic, and an interference level characteristic.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the signal paths comprises an antenna.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of signal paths comprises at least one of a receive signal path and a transmit signal path.

8. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having at least one code section for processing signals in a communication system, the at least one code section being executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform steps comprising:

determining a signal quality metric for a plurality of signal paths, wherein one or more of said plurality of signal paths is selected based on stored

information related to preceding frames, the stored information received via each of the plurality of signal paths;

assigning a threshold signal quality metric for the plurality of signal paths; and

~~ignoring~~discarding a signal path from the plurality of signal paths, if the determined signal quality metric for the signal path does not satisfy the threshold signal quality metric.

9. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 8, comprising code for assigning a different threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

10. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 8, comprising code for assigning a fixed threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

11. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 8, comprising code for dynamically changing the threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

12. (Original) The machine-readable storage according to claim 8, wherein the signal quality metric comprises at least one of a power level characteristic, a packet error rate characteristic, a bit error rate characteristic, a propagation channel characteristic, and an interference level characteristic.

13. (Original) The machine-readable storage according to claim 8, wherein at least one of the signal paths comprises an antenna.

14. (Original) The machine-readable storage according to claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of signal paths comprises at least one of a receive signal path and a transmit signal path.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for processing signals in a communication system, the system comprising:

at least one processor that determines a signal quality metric for a plurality of signal paths, wherein one or more of said plurality of signal paths is selected based on stored information related to preceding frames, the stored information received via each of the plurality of signal paths;

the at least one processor assigns a threshold signal quality metric for the plurality of signal paths; and

the at least one processor ~~ignores~~discards a signal path from the plurality of signal paths, if the determined signal quality metric for the signal path does not satisfy the threshold signal quality metric.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the at least one processor assigns a different threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the at least one processor assigns a fixed threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the at least one processor dynamically changes the threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

19. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the signal quality metric comprises at least one of a power level characteristic, a packet error rate characteristic, a bit error rate characteristic, a propagation channel characteristic, and an interference level characteristic.

20. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein at least one of the signal paths comprises an antenna.

21. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of signal paths comprises at least one of a receive signal path and a transmit signal path.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising selecting a first of said plurality of signal paths based on said previously stored information related to preceding frames.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising selecting one or more of said plurality of signal paths based on a history of previously selected signal paths.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising controlling a gain of a selected one of said plurality of signal paths based on a power coupling factor between said selected one of said plurality of signal paths and a signal path adjacent to said selected one of said plurality of signal path.

25. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 8, comprising code for selecting a first of said plurality of signal paths based on said previously stored information related to preceding frames.

26. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 8, comprising code for selecting one or more of said plurality of signal paths based on a history of previously selected signal paths.

27. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 8, comprising code for controlling a gain of a selected one of said plurality of signal paths based on a power coupling factor between said selected one of said plurality of signal paths and a signal path adjacent to said selected one of said plurality of signal path.

28. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the at least one processor selects a first of said plurality of signal paths based on said previously stored information related to preceding frames.

29. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the at least one processor selects one or more of said plurality of signal paths based on a history of previously selected signal paths.

30. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the at least one processor controls a gain of a selected one of said plurality of signal paths based on a power coupling factor between said selected one of said plurality of signal paths and a signal path adjacent to said selected one of said plurality of signal path.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for processing signals in a communication system, the method comprising:

determining a signal quality metric for a plurality of signal paths, wherein one or more of said plurality of signal paths is selected based on stored information related to preceding frames, the stored information received via each of the plurality of signal paths;

assigning a threshold signal quality metric for the plurality of signal paths; and

selecting a target signal path from said plurality of signal paths, for receiving the signals, based on said determined signal quality metric for said plurality of signal paths and said threshold signal quality metric.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 31, comprising ~~ignoring~~discarding a signal path during said selecting of said target signal path, if said determined signal quality metric for said signal path does not satisfy said threshold signal quality metric.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, comprising assigning a different threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, comprising assigning a fixed threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, comprising dynamically changing the threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the signal quality metric comprises at least one of a power level characteristic, a packet error rate characteristic, a bit error rate characteristic, a propagation channel characteristic, and an interference level characteristic.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein at least one of the signal paths comprises an antenna.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein each of the plurality of signal paths comprises at least one of a receive signal path and a transmit signal path.

39. (Currently Amended) A system for processing signals in a communication system, the system comprising:

at least one processor that determines a signal quality metric for a plurality of signal paths, wherein one or more of said plurality of signal paths is selected based on stored information related to preceding frames, the stored information received via each of the plurality of signal paths;

said at least one processor assigns a threshold signal quality metric for the plurality of signal paths; and

said at least one processor selects a target signal path from said plurality of signal paths, for receiving the signals, based on said determined signal quality metric for said plurality of signal paths and said threshold signal quality metric.

40. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 39, wherein said at least one processor ~~ignores~~discards a signal path during said selecting of said target signal path, if said determined signal quality metric for said signal path does not satisfy said threshold signal quality metric.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein said at least one processor assigns a different threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein said at least one processor assigns a fixed threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein said at least one processor dynamically changes the threshold signal quality metric for each of the plurality of signal paths.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the signal quality metric comprises at least one of a power level characteristic, a packet error rate characteristic, a bit error rate characteristic, a propagation channel characteristic, and an interference level characteristic.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein at least one of the signal paths comprises an antenna.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein each of the plurality of signal paths comprises at least one of a receive signal path and a transmit signal path.